



HF Happenings 826

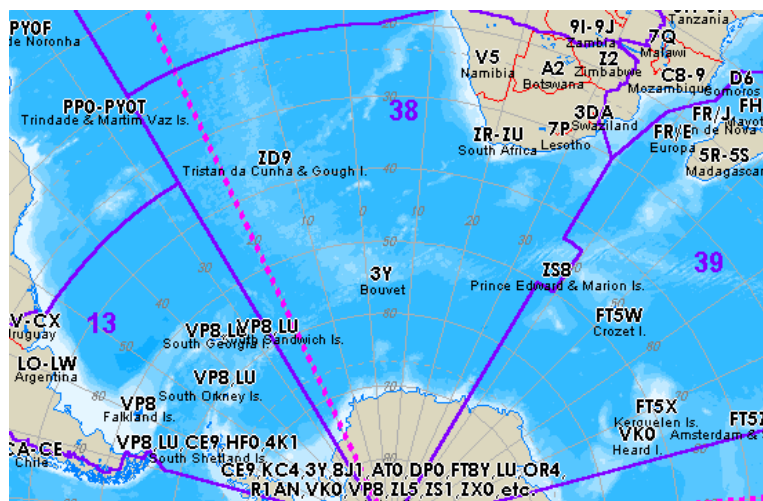
Volume 17, Issue 36, the week of 17 December 2018

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

Southern African Fauna and Flora <https://zsfaunaandflora.wordpress.com/>

ZS SOTA <https://zssota.wordpress.com>

5 MHz (60 metre) allocations <http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp>



December

17 – Public Holiday
21 - Summer Solstice
22 - Ursid Meteor Showers
21 and 22 - Full Moon Hike, Stellenbosch
25 - Christmas Day
26 - Day of Goodwill/Family Day; the closing date for the January 2019 Radio ZS
29 and 30 - Unplugged62 Festival, Barrydale
31 - Festival of Lights, Nieu-Bethesda;
The end of the 2018 YOTA Month, the 2018 CQ DX Marathon and the ARRL Grid Chase. Destroy your copy of the 2018 Contest Manual!

January 2019

1 – New Year's Day; start of the 2019 CQ DX Marathon and the Canadian National Parks on the Air. **Download the 2019 SARL Contest Manual!**
2 – Minstrel Carnival, Cape Town
16 - National Rooibos Day
17 to 21 - Wolfkop Weekender, Citrusdal
19 and 20 – N3TC Drak Challenge, Underberg
26 – Delheim's Harvest Festival, Stellenbosch

The 2019 Zone 38 Award

According to the CQ Magazine's Worked all Zones award programme, Zone 38 is known as the South African Zone. The following entities are in Zone 38: 3DA – Eswatini (Swaziland), 3Y - Bouvet Island, 7P – Lesotho; A2 - Botswana, V5 - Namibia, ZD9 - Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island, Z2 – Zimbabwe; ZS - South Africa; ZS8 - Marion Island and some Antarctic stations (The boundaries of CQ zones 12, 13, 29, 30, 32, 38 and 39 converge at the South Pole. Stations KC4AAA and KC4USN are at the South Pole and will count for any one of the listed zones. Most Antarctic stations indicate their zone on the QSL card.)

To obtain the 2019 Zone 38 Award, radio amateurs and SWL must provide evidence of working (or hearing) 38 stations in Zone 38 starting from 1 January 2019, made up as follows: 1 QSO from Eswatini; 1 QSO from Lesotho; 1 QSO from Botswana; 4 QSOs from Namibia; 1 QSO from Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island; 2 QSOs from Zimbabwe; 5 QSOs from ZS1 (can include ZS7); 5 QSOs from ZS2 (can include ZS8); 4 QSOs from ZS3; 4 QSOs from ZS4; 5 QSOs from ZS5 and 5 QSOs from ZS6 (1 from Limpopo; 1 from Mpumalanga; 1 from North West and 1 from Gauteng; the 5th QSO from any province in ZS6). A QSO with Bouvet Island can be used as a Jocker.

A log summary in MS Excel indicating the date, time UTC, station worked/heard, frequency in MHz, mode, RS(T) sent, RS(T) received and the name of the operator (not your name) must be sent to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za. The Award will be an A4 PDF document sent out by e-mail.

TQSL: New Version

A new version (v2.4.3) of LoTW's Trusted QSL (TQSL) is now available at www.arrl.org/tqsl-download. It has new features as well as corrections for defects found since TQSL 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 were released. It also includes an update to the most recent TQSL configuration file.

IOTA Directors

"At its Board meeting on 17 November 2018 IOTA Ltd appointed a number of IOTA enthusiasts to serve as Directors on an enlarged Board. The full Board is Roger Balister G3KMA, Cezar Trifu VE3LYC, Charles Wilmott M0OXO, Dan Sullivan W4DKS, Hans-Georg Goebel DK1RV, Jim Nakajima JA9IFF and Ghis Penny, ON5NT. We thank Dr Jeff Cantor K1ZN who stepped down as Director in early November for his help and support during his period of service on the Board. We welcome the new appointees and look forward to the added strength they bring to the programme's management".

WSJT-X 2.0 (Full Release Now Available; FT8 Enthusiasts Urged to Upgrade Now)

It has been announced that the new WSJT-X 2.0 software suite has been released by developer Joe Taylor, K1JT. It was also mentioned that FT8 and MSK144 users are urged to upgrade to the new standard because the FT8 and MSK144 protocols have been enhanced in a way that is not backward compatible with older versions of the program. This includes any of the older 1.9 version releases. As of December 10th, the new protocols will become the worldwide standards, and all users should upgrade to WSJT-X 2.0 by January 1, 2019. Joe Taylor, K1JT, states, "After that date, only the new FT8 and MSK144 should be used on the air." The new version can be obtained on the WSJT-X home page at <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjitx.html>. Users are encouraged to read the new Quick Start Guide for WSJT-X at https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Quick_Start_WSJT-X_2.0.pdf. Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB, has released an FT8 Operating Guide at http://www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

Ghana, 9G. Matt, IZ4YGS, will soon be active as 9G5GS from Sanzule, West Takoradi (Western Region), Ghana. His length of stay is unknown. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via IZ4YGS, direct or eQSL.



Rwanda, 9X. Harald, DF2WO, will once again be active as 9X2AW from Kigali between 18 January and 14 February. He is currently preparing his 160 m antenna and will build a Hexbeam with Bamboo Sticks for working on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 metres using mainly Digital modes (FT8, PSK31, JT65 and RTTY), CW and SSB. QSL via M0OXO's OQRS.



Namibia, V5 and Botswana, A2. Carl, ZS1KM, plans to travel to Namibia (V51KM) and Botswana (A25KM) between mid-December and mid-January. Activity will be mostly on SSB with some Digital modes on 80, 40 and 20 metres. QSL via his home call sign.

South Sudan, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ, is once again active as Z81D from Juba, South Sudan, for the next 6 months. Activity will be limited to his spare time on 80 - 10 metres using SSB and some Digital modes. QSL via OM3JW. He also uses ClubLog and LoTW.

South Africa, ZT. The South African state-owned power company, Eskom, has given an undertaking that there will be no rolling blackouts (load shedding) until the New Year (3 January 2019). This means that ZT1T will be operating as usual between Christmas and New Year without the threat of power being switched off without warning mid-operation!

ZT1T (unique prefix) will be used to celebrate the 8th Christmas after the rescue of Susan, ZS1AFR and husband Tom, ZS1AFS from the South Atlantic in February 2011. They had to abandon their yacht when the fitting holding the forestay to the stem head of their yacht broke. They were rescued and returned home via the UK.

This year operation will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 m, the planned frequencies are 7.155 MHz, 14.205 MHz and 21.295 MHz (all +/-). The WARC band antenna is down. The swing-arm mount is in the process of design and will be ready for the next planned session over Easter 2019. QSL is via LOTW, or direct.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Madeira Island, CT9. Georg, NZ1C, will be active as CT9/NZ1C from Santana on Madeira Island (AF-014) between 16 and 25 December. Activity will be holiday style on 40 - 10 metres with a focus on CW and FT8, with some SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via DD5ZZ, LoTW or eQSL.

Seychelles, S7. Mike, OE6MBG, will be active as S79AA from Mahe Island (AF-024) between 5 January and 2 February 2019. Activity will be from Baie Lazare for two weeks and two weeks from Anse Boileau. Operations will be on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres (possibly 6 m) using CW and SSB. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 10 to 17 December 2018

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 17 December

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band

All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once;

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 December 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/>

NAQCC CW Sprint

01:30 UTC-03:30 UTC 19 December

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 1 watt

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once;

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC December 23, 2018

E-mail logs to: nagcc33@windstream.net and

icoreyc@gmail.com

Upload log at:

http://nagcc.info/sprint_submit_log.html

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://nagcc.info/sprint/sprint201812mw.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 19 December

Geographic Focus: United States

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 20 December 2018

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 19 December
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: SSB
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
 Classes: Single Op
 Max power: 100 watts
 Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
 Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 21 December 2018
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 19 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 20 December
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: Each call once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 22 December 2018
 Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/>

NCCC RTTY Sprint
 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 21 December
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: RTTY
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name or QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 23 December 2018
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

QRP Fox Hunt
 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 21 December
 Geographic Focus: United States
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 80 m Only
 Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
 Max power: 5 watts
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
 Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 22 December 2018
 E-mail logs to: (see rules)
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 21 December
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name or QTH
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 23 December 2018
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

AGB-Party Contest
 16:00 - 17:00 UTC 21 December
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
 Bands: 80, 40 m
 Classes: Single Op All Band (CW/SSB/Mixed); Single Op Single Band; Single Op Digital; Single Op QRP; Multi-Op; SWL
 Exchange: AGB Member: RST, QSO no and member no; non-Member: RST and QSO no
 Work stations: Once per mode per 15-minute period (see rules)

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with AGB member
 Multipliers: Each AGB member once; Each DXCC/WAE country once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 18 January 2019
 E-mail logs to: eu1eu@mail.ru
 Mail logs to: Igor "Harry" Getmann, EU1EU, PO Box 143, Minsk 220005, Belarus
 Find rules at:
www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_party.htm

RAEM Contest
 00:00 – 11:59 UTC 23 December
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band – low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single; SWL
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
 Exchange: Serial no and latitude (degs only) and longitude (degs only) N = North, S = South, W = West, O = East (e.g. 57N 85O)
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 50 points and 1 point for every degree difference in geo location, both latitude and longitude; QSO with Polar station: 100 points additional; QSO with RAEM Memorial Station: 300 points additional
 Multipliers: Polar stations multiply total QSO points by 1.1
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
 Submit logs by: 22 January 2019
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Upload log at: <http://ua9qcq.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://raem.srr.ru/en/main/>

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 26 December
 Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 December
 DARC Christmas Contest, 08:30 - 10:59 UTC 26 December
 CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 December
 NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 28 December
 NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 December
 RAC Winter Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 29 December
 Stew Perry Top band Challenge, 15:00 UTC 29 December to 15:00 UTC 30 December
 Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 29 December to 15:00 UTC 30 December
 Bogor Old and New Contest, 09:00 - 23:59 UTC 31 December
 AGB New Year Snowball Contest, 00:00 - 01:00 UTC 1 January
 SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, 08:00 - 11:00 UTC 1 January
 AGCW Happy New Year Contest, 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 1 January
 QRP ARCI New Year's Sprint, 15:00 - 18:00 UTC 1 January

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter